

**Vermont
Workforce Development Council
Executive Committee
October 16, 2006**

Meeting Notes

1) Update on the Interagency Workforce Development Committee - Pat shared her thoughts on this committee that was set up under an Executive Order last year as a way for the administrative agencies to coordinate their workforce initiatives and programs. Co-Chairs are the Commissioner of Economic Development and the Commissioner of VDoL. Pat and Mike plan to re-activate the Committee soon and to more closely coordinate its efforts with the WDC as a committee of the Council that will address interagency coordination issues in support of the State's overall workforce development priorities. This should fit in well with the new vision that the WDC developed earlier this year on which Pat McDonald and Mike Quinn provided leadership.

2) Fall Meeting Agenda Review - The draft agenda for the Fall meeting was reviewed. There will be a new member orientation at 11:00, then lunch, and then the actual meeting will be held from about 1:00 to 4:00. We agreed to invite the Governor to speak at lunch or immediately after lunch and to invite Bill Stenger to talk about the Next Generation Commission. Subsequent to the meeting, Chip was able to find a date, December 13, that works for Frank, Bill Stenger, and most of the Executive Committee. Location will be Woodbury College as the Capitol Plaza is not available.

3) Next Generation Commission - The Next Generation Commission expects to have its report finished in time for the December 13 WDC meeting, and if that proves to be the case, our meeting will be a very good place to introduce it. This might take the form of presentation by Bill Stenger followed by Q and A, or it might be useful to take some key items from the report and break into smaller groups to engage the member in discussing possible next steps and strategies. We should anticipate that the Commission will identify some short-term items that can be addressed by the Administration or the Legislature immediately, and some longer term items that may be identified as appropriate for the WDC to address.

4) DOE:

Perkins Act - At the meeting with Commissioner Cate Chip offered the Council's assistance in the public engagement process that is required as part of developing the new five year State Plan for the use of Federal Perkins Funds. These funds comprise about 5% of tech center budgets, however they are used to move important policies such as academic support for at-risk students, improved career development systems, dual enrollment programs, and instructor professional development. Therefore, even though the funds are limited, they can have a significant impact on the direction of the system.

DOE Legislative Initiatives - At the time of the meeting, the Department had not formulated its Legislative initiatives.

Integrated Vision on Tech Ed - The department held a series of public meetings over the summer and more recently at the Franklin/Grand Isle WIB Annual Meeting. Other than the WIB meeting, these were lightly attended with few business participants. The policy direction here is one the Council supports, making it possible for students to participate in a high quality tech ed program and a high quality academic program without having to choose one over the other. The Commissioner reported that DOE expects to have a report outlining the next stage of the process, containing more specific policies, ready for release in December. One concept being considered would be to replace the current system where the funds follow the student to the tech center with one where each institution is funded on a need basis. This could provide more choices for more students. He also suggested that credit should be based on competence not seat time, and that we should look at consolidating administration while preserving local input on the operation of schools.

Springfield River Valley Career Center Governance - At its September meeting the State Board of Education approved the regional proposal for a new regional governance structure. This will go to the voters in the region at town meeting in March.

\